



THE THATCHAM POSTMARK

THATCHAM and DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

WINTER EDITION JANUARY 2014



Chairman's Report

Once again the society has had another good year. We had some great speakers for the Thursday meetings – John Baron, Steve Jarvis, Trevor Cornfield, Tony Bosworth and of course Emily Woodhams. The Monday meetings have been wide and varied with the activities being chosen by the members. All of the meetings have been well attended and we have also had some new members that now come to the meetings regularly.

There were no problems at the A.G.M. with everything mostly staying the same. We had our annual society auction in November organised by the committee. Many thanks to Colin Bartholemew, Reg Rhodes, Mike Ward and helpers for all the hard work organising it.

Congratulations to all the competition winners and thank you to all those who entered. A big thank you also to all those members that have helped in so many ways throughout the year and we now look forward to March and our next Westbex Stamp Fair.

Finally the committee hope that you had a lovely Christmas and wish you all a happy and prosperous new year.

Barney Bardsley, Chairman

Year 48

Issue 123

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The Christmas Competition Trophy Winners with Tom Fowler

For further information on anything in this newsletter please contact

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Winter Photo Gallery



Labels and embossed stamps



The 'Olmutz' Cover



Airmails labels and stickers



Some Easter activities



Emily Woodhams



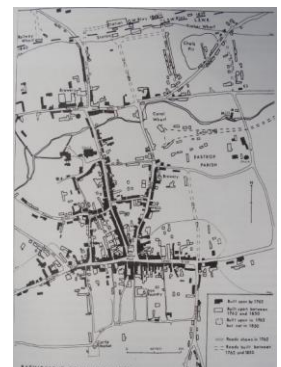
Some of the places visited



Revolution issue postcards



The Petrograd Atlas



Details of Victor's route

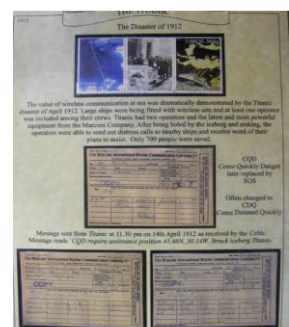
UK first flight covers



The Auctioneers



The Titanic telegrams



PAST EVENTS

Monday 7th October

There were 20 members present for the meeting which was a Q & A session followed by Junk Mails.

Tony Hillier passed round two stamps from the 1936 Antwerp stamp exhibition of the same denomination but one was lilac while the other was brown! Much chat took place as to whether the brown could fade to lilac or were there actually two distinct colours even though the catalogue stated lilac. Next was **Tony Jordan** who passed around a beautiful cover from 1933 with mail coaches on it and stamps from all over. Tony thought that it was sent to an address in Chemnitz but must thought that it could be Olmnitz. On research afterwards it was agreed that the town was almost certainly Olmutz in the Czech Republic and now called Olomouc.

Jim Mowat asked about some Spanish covers and the private delivery system that was in operation prior to postal issues. Were red lines across covers normal denoting recipient to pay charges as this original method was in use in Spain long after stamps were issued. It was thought that the introduction of post-paid stopped that in U.K. and most other countries. **Mike Smith** showed and asked about a 1933 20th Philatelic Congress Cinderella issue of 6 stamps showing a top-hatted postman on each and without values asking why they were issued. The consensus was that they were for general publicity use at major postal events.

There was a mini-auction at half time when 9 from 24 items were sold.

Part two was devoted to junk mails and we had several displays of material to consider. **Tony Jordan** showed several sheets of labels, cut-outs, embossed stamps and franked items and a sheet of late 19thC S. American cut-outs and postal seals. **Malcolm Hoskins** put up a collection of P.P.I's – Printed Postal Impressions. there were 8 basic types which he showed from a very detailed album and also shown were labels, smart stamps, airmail stickers, registration labels, foreign `rubbish` and examples of `to-pay` overprints. Quite a collection of junk!

Ian Keel displayed examples of Postman junk mail and several types of `to pay` handstamps both large and small. Then to finish off an very interesting afternoon **Sue Hopson** showed us some irregularities in letters posted to Camp Hopson and Co. Ltd. showing lots of overprints and finally a cover with an overprint for Billy Graham`s 1989 livelink June 26th – July 1st concerts.

Thursday 16th October

The guest speaker for this meeting was the delightful Emily Woodhams with her illustrated talk on
`St Petersburg with Love`.

Emily spoke of how, several years ago under her Grandmothers bed, she had found a wonderful large collection of old postcard, stamps, pictures and ephemera that had belonged to her Great Grandmother Clara and how this had started her off researching the family and continuing the collection. In the 1880`s Clara`s father went St Petersburg to run the Nevski cotton mill. (At that time many of the mills and industries were foreign owned and operated and St Petersburg (Petrograd) had been created by Peter the Great to be the Venice of the north.). Most of the items on display came from letters to Clara from her family in St Petersburg as she was in boarding school in U.K. and just went back during the holidays.

There were postmark anomalies of dates – one was sent after Christmas but arrived before as there was a 13 day anomaly between the civil and church calendars (Russia did not adopt the Gregorian calendar until 1922), some lovely cards of the summer and winter palaces, cards of where Clara and the family went on their holidays and lovely cards showing Easter customs and activities. All this continued up until about 1901-2 when things started to change for the worse.

In part 2 Emily spoke about the industrial unrest and the increasing concerns of the workers. She showed cards of the everyday workers lives - long hours and hard work - some cards of the 1905 St. Petersburg strikes and a series of cards that were never sent depicting the general unrest throughout Russia. Clara and her family were to leave just after to go back to Manchester. She showed letters and cards sent to her family from friends left behind but, by 1917, they too had all left. Emily showed cards of many factories

and mills that had been renamed and postcards of the family travels to the Americas from 1909 onwards-
- they must have had the wanderlust about them as they did not stay in one place very long.

Eventually they all came back to England and in 1924 Clara married Victor who was an old family friend and who had `escaped` from St. Petersburg soon after she had. He must have returned to Russia as some sort of wartime `spy` because she showed Victor`s four medals he was awarded – 2 from the U.K. and 2 awarded by Russia for military merit. They must have thought that he was one of them but he was actually one of us!

Emily then showed a fantastic old atlas published in Petrograd in which she found some maps and routes taken by Victor when he went back to Russia and finally showed commemorative covers of the 1917 revolution when St. Petersburg became Leningrad. What a wonderful and informative talk and display and fancy finding all those cards and letters under her grandmothers bed!

Monday 4th November

There were 20 members present for this meeting and the theme was `My Favourite Philatelic Items`.

John Shambrook started the ball rolling with several sheets of covers and about Bleroit and his flying exploits plus some first flight covers from Hendon to Windsor in 1911. Then **Malcolm Hoskins** showed many postcards he has bought that remind him of his past and present events and happenings.

Bob Paterson brought some favourite stamps from the West Indies and a postcard of a lovely steam vessel on the river Fal in Cornwall. **Mike Gurr** showed some covers and letters to and from Windsor Castle and an unusual postcard from 1902. **Mike Smith** had just one sheet showing four little stamps from Denmark that reminded him of his schoolboy Danish friend who was killed in an avalanche in Greenland in 1968. His mate had shown him that stamp collecting can be very interesting when one considers all the variations and not just the basic issues.

There was a mini-auction at half time when 13 from 20 lots were sold.

To start part 2 **Graeme Stewart** showed some of his favourite sheets of bird stamps, illustrated covers and old postcards from Thatcham and some J79 cancellations which were quite unusual. Then he showed some lovely hand-drawn covers from the Ross Dependency. Then **Martin Farr** showed some of his Chinese `myths and legends` sheets plus his favourite MS of all time – the Allahabad sheet from India commemorating the very first airmail flight. **Ian Keel** brought along his vast collection of every issue of the `Smilers` and talked about some of his favourite ones. Then, to finish off the afternoon, **Dave Tanner** showed us a selection of his favourite Persian issues from 1911, overprints and surcharges from 1914-18, official overprints denoting non-looted stamps plus an airmail set showing the `Eagle` over the Elbruz mountains in Persia.

We had a great afternoon with lots of interesting items to hear about and view.

Thursday 21st November The Society Annual auction

On quite a chilly night there were 24 members and 5 guests present for the auction evening.

The lots were expertly handled at the viewing tables by **Colin Bartholemew** and **Reg Rhodes** and helpers. **Tony Jordan** was the auctioneer (with his smart suit and a bow tie), **David Beddoes** was the scrutineer, **Barney Bardsley** the recorder and **Mike Ward** the accounts manager.

There were 587 lots on offer of which about 12 had been withdrawn. 287 lots were sold and the sales realised the sum of £1,518.80p which was quite good. The society would like to thank all those that put a considerable effort into making the auction a success.

Monday 2nd December was a Christmas theme afternoon and there were 22 members and 2 new faces – welcome. The first half was on anything to do with Christmas and we had a wealth of items to view.

Tony Jordan showed some attractive 100 year old cards and some cards of horses pulling sleighs.

Mike Smith showed Christmas sets from New Zealand with several colour variations. **Ann Martin** brought several albums of GB used Christmas issues from 1966 to 2006 and an album of religious issues from around the world – nice items. **Graeme Stewart** showed a Thatcham cover that had been redirected on Christmas day in 1904! and a new year card that had been posted on 31.12.1847 and delivered on 1.13.1848! **David Beddoes** brought a wide variety of Gibraltar Christmas covers and also some from Australia- quite a selection. **Bob Paterson** brought some lovely old European postcards of Santa Claus that showed various costumes that he has been shown in over the years. **Tony Hillier** displayed a large MS sheet from Belgium with a lovely Christmas market scene. Then **Malcolm Hoskins** put up some 20 or so great display sheets of Christmas stamps from around the world. **Dave Tanner** brought Christmas issues of the USA from 1962 to 2007 with the original prices at 4c and finishing at 40c+. Then to finish off the first half **Ian** and **Juliet Keel** showed some beautiful old Cards of Christmas scenes plus some GB issues and cards. A most entertaining and pictorial first half.

Ann and Mike provided sausage rolls and mince pies to have with our tea and coffee and then it was time for the Christmas quiz that was set by **Martin Farr**.

There were 21 questions on a broad range of subjects and, at the end, there was a tie on 14 correct answers between **John Findlater** and **Dave Tanner** so Q22 was put as a tie-breaker and yet again there was a tie! We went around the room for 5 more questions – each time a draw until at last there was a winner. The 28th question was – ‘Bridgetown is the capital of which country?’ There was only one correct answer of Barbados and so – at last – **John Findlater** won a nice box of chocolate biscuits

To finish of a great afternoon there was a mini auction set by David Beddoes and there were 7 lots sold from 22.

Thursday 19th December The Christmas Competitions and Social Evening

This was the Christmas Competitions and Quiz evening with ffff members present.

The three advanced level competitions were once again judged by Tom Fowler from the Hampshire Federation while the remaining competitions were judged by those attending. The winners were as follows.

The Competition Winners

The Jubilee Cup	won by	Barney Bardsley for his entry on The Penny Black
The Reg Rhodes Shield	won by	Ian Keel for his entry on Postage Dues
The Keith Foster Trophy	won by	Ian Keel for his Red Cross display. Ian was also presented with the silver medal that he won at Hampex
The Frank Record Trophy	won by	Dave Tanner for his ‘Ahmed Mirza Shah 1911 issues’
The Novice’s Cup	There were no entries for this trophy	
The Single Sheet Salver	won by	Dave Tanner for his ‘Nasr ed Din Shah 1 st portrait issue’
The Society Trophy	won by	Barney Bardsley for his Jubilee Cup entry score

After the presentations, by Jean Foster for the Keith Foster Trophy and by our president John Baron for the others, members enjoyed a good spread of food and drinks thanks to Ann Martin, Jean Foster and Mike Ward. Then everyone had to use their ‘little grey cells’ for two fiendish quizzes devised by Bob Patterson and Barney Bardsley and boxes of chocolates were presented to the winners Sue Hopson and Ann with Juliet.

THE POSTCARD PAGE



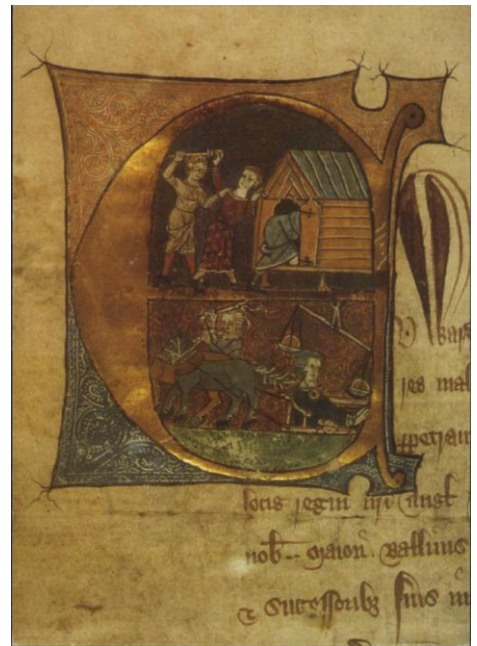
Just to keep in with the Russian Theme of October, I came across this postcard of Lenin talking with the Peasants in Shushenskoye village.

A wonderful postcard depicting the Royal Charter of 1347 which granted the City of Bristol the right to imprison Night Walkers and to punish Fraudulent Bakers.

So just how many people were going to St. Ives ?

A lovely Chinese influenced postcard of about the 1930's which was issued by -

Sharpless and Sons
Importers, Jobbers and Retailers
of
Dry Goods
801, 803, 805, & 807 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia



USEFUL WEBSITES

Tony Bray for World new issues at www.tonybray.co.uk

Royal Mail for all past and new issues at www.royalmail.com

The Society website with lots of data and links at www.tdps.co.uk

Avion Thematics – one of the best organised sites at www.avionstamps.com

The Avion website now incorporates the stock listings for Phoenix International

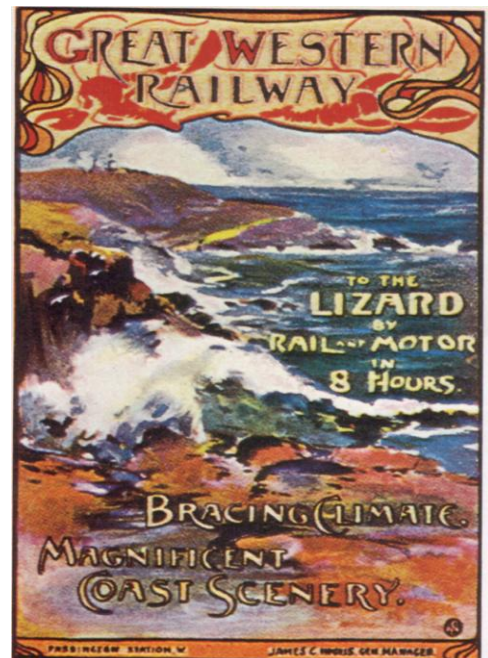
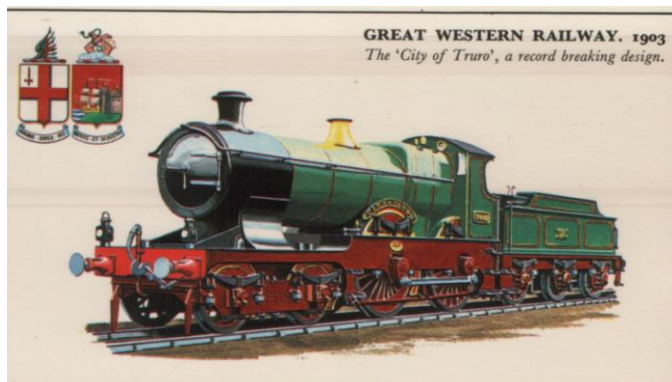
Portsmouth stamp shop for awkward items and covers at www.portsmouthstampshop.co.uk

A.B.P.S for all the latest philatelic news, events and links at www.abps.org.uk

Recent and Future Royal Mail Issues

7 th January	Classic Children`s T.V.
4 th February	Working Horses
19 th February	`Post and Go` Spring Blooms
20 th February	Locomotives of Wales
25 th March	Remarkable Lives
21 st April	Buckingham Palace
13 th May	Great British Films

We are sorry to have to tell you all that one of our members – Eric Osmonde – passed away on the 17th October. Although Eric did not regularly attend the evening meetings he was a familiar face at the Monday afternoon sessions where he often showed material relating to his great passion – Railways – and in particular the G.W.R. “Gods Wonderful Railway” as he called it. He will be missed by his many friends in the Society and we extend our deepest sympathy to Marion and the family



THE BACK PAGE

“Club Stamps” corner

Club Stamps are well looked after by **Dave Tanner** who will be present at most of our club meetings. There will usually be a Club Table at all stamp fairs held at the Memorial Hall.

Accessories. Dave is also the contact for the purchase of all philatelic accessories – most of which are available to be ordered at a small discount.

Stamps of the World Catalogue set (normal price - £200) – TDPS price £155 + p&p

Collect British stamps (normal price - £12.95) – TDPS price £10 + p&p

GB Concise (normal price - £30) – TDPS price £23.50 + p&p

A small percentage always goes to club funds. Give Dave a ring on 01256 780467

Future Programme and Events

Monday 6 th January	`Stars of Stage and Screen`
Thursday 16 th January	New Acquisitions – Members displays
Monday 3 rd February	Illustrated Covers
Saturday 15 th February	Stamp Fair at the Memorial Hall
Thursday 20 th February	Philatelic Terms Illustrated - Workshop
Monday 3 rd March	`World Wars I and II`
Thursday 20 th March	`Cinderellas` with Francis Kiddle
Saturday 29 th March	WESTBEX STAMP FAIR at The Kennet School Thatcham from 10am to 4pm
Monday 7 th April	`Queens`
Thursday 17 th April	`1776 Plus or Minus a Bit` with Tony Jordan
Saturday 19 th April	Stamp Fair at the Memorial Hall

Officers of the Club

President	John Baron	01235 820120
Chairman	Barney Bardsley	0777 0376 235
Vice Chair	Mike Gurr	01635 43398
Secretary	Graeme Stewart	01635 866942
Treasurer	Mike Ward	01635 864307

Committee

Bob Paterson	01635 44848
Tony Jordan	01189 302279
Colin Bartholemew	01635 865457

Archivist	Julia Wilson	WestBex	Will, Graeme and Martin	Publicity	Martin Farr
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